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MUHLENBERGIA SYLVATICA, var. **CALIFORNICA**.—This grass has the spreading, diffusely branched habit of *M. sylvatica*, and should probably be ranked as a marked variety of that species.

The narrow panicles terminate the long, leafy, terminal and lateral branches, are 4 to 6 inches long, the rays mostly alternate, the lower ones distant and subspicate, some of them 1 inch long, the spikelets sessile and crowded on the branches; the outer, glumes membranaceous, except the hispid green keel, equal, lanceolate, acuminate, scarcely 2 lines long, rather exceeding the flowering glume without its awn; flowering glume about $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines long, firm, finely scabrous, acute, and terminating in a straight awn about its own length, sparingly villose at the base; palea about as long as its glume, acute.

Collected on the San Bernardino Mts., California, by *Mr. S. B. Parish*.

Notulæ Californicæ.—The fact has hitherto been strangely overlooked by Californian botanists, or at least, it has been mentioned by no one, that the most common *Convolvulus* of California has the character of an evergreen shrub, often ascending trees to the height of twenty feet, and showing great lengths of woody, grape-vine like stems frequently near an inch in diameter. The species is *C. occidentalis*, Gray, supposed by that author to be an herblike *C. sepium*, L., to which it is, in floral character, closely related. The young plants are indeed wholly herbaceous, and when only these are seen, trailing over the ground, or supported on low bushes and flowering profusely, it may easily pass for a mere herb. I have admired almost daily for a year past a beautiful specimen which grows by a brookside in the midst of the village of Berkeley, and only very recently did it occur to me as singular that a *Convolvulus* so much like common bind-weed should be displaying its festoons of leaf and flower from only the very topmost branches of a tree twelve or fifteen feet high, and that during the whole year. The examination thus suggested to my mind brought to light the dark-barked, lithe and tortuous woody stems which, in no wise attached to the trunk of the tree, rose from the ground directly up to the lower branches, after the manner of wild grape-vines; and this, now that my attention has been called to the fact, I find to be the universal habit of the species, except in the case of plants only two or three years from the seed. The most luxuriant growth of this plant which I have met with is on Goat Island in San Francisco Bay.

On the northern slope of this mountain island is an extensive grove of live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) of rather small size; but many of these trees have their crowns completely and beautifully mantled, so that their own foliage is hidden, by the masses of the shrubby morning-glory whose corollas are here, as I have seen

them no where else, of a rich purplish hue. On the mainland they are apparently always cream-colored.

Convolvulus arvensis, L., a foreigner, is already more abundant throughout the region of San Francisco Bay than any other species, and is a very troublesome weed in the wheat fields. At the time of my writing the stubble fields are white every morning with its flowers, for it persists in growing and blooming however closely cut down by scythe and sickle.

No species of the cruciferous genus *Cakile* appears yet to have been reported from any Pacific shore. But what appears to be *C. Americana*, Nutt., is abundant on the beach at West Berkeley. Its only associates there are the indigenous *Abronias*, *Franserias*, and the like Pacific Coast maritime species, yet in all probability it is an introduced plant.

Chrysanthemum segetum, L., a plant nowhere mentioned as even adventive on this continent, has become thoroughly established in fields and by waysides a few miles north of Berkeley. Being an annual, and well able by its seeds to survive the half year's drouth, it may possibly become the troublesome weed in California which its sister species, *C. Leucanthemum*, L., has long since become at the East.

Picris echioides, L., the type of an Old World genus allied to *Crepis*, from which it differs in having a plumose pappus, grows wild in great abundance near Vallejo. *P. hieracioides*, L., common in Australia, is the only other species of this rather large genus which seems to have obtained a foothold in any part of the New World, and is the only one which would have been expected to establish itself in California. But this which runs wild on even the uncultivated hills, almost choking out the indigenous tarweed, is certainly the well marked *P. echioides*, new to our continent, and perhaps destined to be troublesome as a coarse weed.—EDWARD LEE GREENE, *Berkeley, California*.

Parishella Californica.—To the scientific botanist there is no more interesting genus than Nuttall's *Nemacladus*; and I will remember the satisfaction I had when (in the year 1875) I detected its affinities with the *Cyphioxæ* of South America and South Africa. More recently I had the pleasure to describe a second species of this curious genus. In botanizing this last spring upon the Mohave desert, those sharp-sighted botanists and most obliging and excellent correspondents, the brothers Parish, of San Bernardino, California, had the rare fortune to discover a little plant, which upon examination proves to be a new genus of this group. I wish here merely to say that I have taken the opportunity thus afforded to dedicate it to the discoverers, in token of my appreciation of the very valuable services which they have rendered, and are zealously rendering to botany and to botanists. Without here entering upon a formal description, I can mention the distin-